

**Draft Study Plan  
for the  
Comparative Evaluation of Vitellogenin Methods**

Work Assignment 2-19  
(2-28-02)

The Comparative Evaluation of Vitellogenin Methods is a Special Study recommended by the OECD Validation Management Group on Ecotoxicity Test Methods of Endocrine Disruption (VMGeco). The Study Plan will be discussed at the Third Plenary Meeting of the EDMVS in March. A variety of methods are available to assess vitellogenin production in fishes and this study is an attempt to coordinate an inter-laboratory comparison of vitellogenin methods for suitability in a routine screening program. This comparison is not intended to be a validation of a given method but rather an evaluation across methods to ascertain the qualitative and/or quantitative comparability of the variety of methods currently available. Measurement of vitellogenin is considered an essential endpoint in the short-term reproduction assay using the fathead minnow. The Fish Screening Assays Detailed Review Paper also describes the various approaches to measuring vitellogenin and its relevance and will also be discussed at the March meeting. Data from the Special Study will be used to document acceptable methods for assessing vitellogenin production in the fathead minnow. The EDMVS is invited to comment on the Study Plan and consider the following questions:

1. Is the approach proposed appropriate to the objectives?
2. Does the EDMVS have suggestions to improve the study plan?